PATENT APPLICATION 10/064,251 ATTORNEY DOCKET 2001-0337 (1014-284)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the consideration provided to this application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Each of claims 2, 6, and 10 has been amended for at least one reason unrelated to patentability, including at least one of: to explicitly present one or more elements, limitations, phrases, terms and/or words implicit in the claim as originally written when viewed in light of the specification, thereby not narrowing the scope of the claim; to detect infringement more easily; to enlarge the scope of infringement; to cover different kinds of infringement (direct, indirect, contributory, induced, and/or importation, etc.); to expedite the issuance of a claim of particular current licensing interest; to target the claim to a party currently interested in licensing certain embodiments; to enlarge the royalty base of the claim; to cover a particular product or person in the marketplace; and/or to target the claim to a particular industry.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 6, 10 is in independent form.

I. The Obviousness Rejections

Each of claims 1-20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious, and thus unpatentable, over various combinations of U.S. Patent Publication 20010032271 ("Allen"), U.S. Patent 5,856,981 ("Voelker"), U.S. Patent 6,366,761 ("Montpetit"), U.S. Patent 6,741,572 ("Graves"), U.S. Patent 6,442,132 ("Burns"), U.S. Patent Publication 20010036153 ("Sasaki"), a publication "Constraint- based LSP setup message reversing of CR-LDP", Pages 875-880, IEEE, February 2, 2001 ("Kim"), U.S. Patent 7,099,327 ("Nagarajan"), .S. Patent 7,039,687 ("Jamieson"), and/or a paper "Generalized MPLS - Signaling Functional Description, draft - Network Working Group Internet Draft", May 2001 ("Berger"). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed as moot in view of the present amendments to each of claims 1, 6, and 10.

Specifically, claim 1, from which each of claims 2-5 and 16-20 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet no substantial evidence is of record that the applied portions of the relied-upon references teach, "an RSVP-TE protocol request comprising a shared reservation flag adapted to cause the release of the restoration path resource allocation without causing a release

PATENT APPLICATION 10/064,251 ATTORNEY DOCKET 2001-0337 (1014-284)

of reserved resources associated with the restoration path and without causing a removal of the restoration path".

Claim 6, from which each of claims 7-9 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet no substantial evidence is of record that the applied portions of the relied-upon references teach, "an RSVP-TE protocol message comprising an object that comprises a code, a first possible value of the code indicative that bridging has been completed, a second possible value of the code indicative that a roll/bridge has been completed, a third possible value of the code indicative that a roll has been completed".

Claim 10, from which each of claims 11-15 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet no substantial evidence is of record that the applied portions of the relied-upon references teach, "an RSVP-TE protocol message comprising an object that comprises a code, a first possible value of the code indicative that bridging has been completed, a second possible value of the code indicative that a roll/bridge has been completed, a third possible value of the code indicative that a roll has been completed".

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of each of claims 1, 6, and 10 is respectfully requested. Also, reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of each of claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-20, each of which ultimately depends from one of independent claims 1, 6, and 10, is also respectfully requested.

PATENT APPLICATION 10/064,251 ATTORNEY DOCKET 2001-0337 (1014-284)

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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